

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1141

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0139

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX , PINT, CGEN, EGEN, SNAR, DEA

SUBJ: UPDATE ON VIOLENCE IN SINALOA

1. GOVERNOR CALDERON REPORTED IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN MEXICO CITY'S EL SOL ON MARCH 4 THAT TRANQUILITY HAD RETURNED TO SINALOA AND THAT CITIZENS WERE AGAIN WALKING THE STREETS IN SAFETY UNDER THE ARMY'S PROTECTION. THIS STATEMENT SEEMS TO BE BORN OUT OF SOMEWHAT BY SUPPORTING COMMENT FROM CULIACAN CITIZENS WITH WHOM THE CONSULAR OFFICER HAS SPOKEN.

2. HOWEVER, THE FACT CANNOT BE IGNORED THAT ON MARCH 1, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE IN CULIACAN WAS GUNNED DOWN IN HIS AUTOMOBILE ON A MAIN THOROUGHFARE BY EIGHT GUNMEN WHO RIDDLED HIS VEHICLE WITH BULLETS AND FLED. THE ITEM COMMENTED THAT THE PRECISE REASON FOR HIS ASSASSINATION WAS UNKNOWN BUT SPECULATED THAT HE HAD MANY ENEMIES AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE AND AMONG PRIVATE CITIZENS WHOM HE HAD TORTURED TO FORCE THEM TO CONFESS TO CRIMES HE WAS INVESTIGATING. POSSIBLY IT WAS RESULT OF HIS REDOUBLED EFFORTS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS, SINCE HE WAS KNOWN AS "THE FINGER" OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE.

3. IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT A MEXICAN FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICEMAN, THE CHIEF PILOT ON THE MFJP, WAS FIRED UPON BY
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UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS WHILE RIDING IN HIS AUTOMOBILE BUT ESCAPED INJURY.

4. DR. ALEJANDRO S. ARIAS LIRA, CHIEF OF THE COORDINATED SERVICES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH AND ASSISTANCE, STATED IN A RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW THAT VIOLENCE WAS STILL THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF ALL RECORDED DEATHS IN SINALOA AND THAT THE ONLY

DIFFERENCE IS THAT FORMERLY SUCH DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE MOUNTAINS
BUT THAT NOW THE SCENE HAD SHIFTED TO THE CITIES.

5. ALSO APPEARING IN THE LOCAL PRESS WAS AN ITEM WHICH STATED
THAT WORLD RENOUNED PHYSIOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS WOULD BE
INVITED TO SINALOA BY THE FEDERATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF
SINALOA TO STUDY THE REASONS FOR THE AGRESSIVENESS OF THE
CITIZENS OF THIS STATE.

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